

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow

(360) 753-7624

Taxpedia offers comprehensive online access to state tax databases

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 7, 2001 — Comprehensive state tax information is now only a mouse click away.

The Department of Revenue today unveiled *Taxpedia*, a one-stop source for tax-related laws, rules, advisories, administrative decisions and court cases. It's available at <http://taxpedia.dor.wa.gov>.

The agency designed the service so businesses, tax practitioners and the general public can access pertinent tax information in one place, Director Fred Kiga said.

"Tax law is complex enough without having to hunt down the information applicable to a given circumstance," Kiga said. "*Taxpedia* will help taxpayers determine their rights and obligations by simplifying access to the underlying laws, rules and court decisions."

Kiga said the department developed *Taxpedia* so taxpayers would have access to the same information that the state does. He said Revenue had been working toward that goal for several years and made a breakthrough after Odyssey Development of Australia created the necessary software.

Taxpedia accesses nearly 11,000 documents in several databases relevant to taxes. This includes the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Washington Administrative Code (WAC), advisories, bulletins and rulings issued by the department, administrative decisions by the Washington State Board of Tax Appeals, and cases decided by Washington's appellate courts.

A search for "rental cars," for example, returned references to the RCW and WAC treatment of rental car taxes, and several departmental Excise Tax Advisories. A search for "boat tax" turned up a

(more)

series of Washington Tax Decisions (WTD) resulting from taxpayer appeals of Department of Revenue assessments.

Taxpedia was developed in consultation with several tax professionals who helped the department optimize the system. One of them was Garry Fujita, an attorney with Davis Wright Tremaine.

"*Taxpedia* is a marvelous tool. It combines all current statutes, regulations and other department publications as well as officially reported state tax-related judicial and administrative decisions," Fujita said. "This resource is worth several hundred dollars per year but the department makes it freely available to the public as a taxpayer service."

Another test group participant was Jerry Hammond, state and local tax consultant with the accounting firm of Knight Vale & Gregory.

"The department should receive an award for this outstanding service to taxpayers," Hammond said. "*Taxpedia* allows members of the accounting community to better serve their clients as well as providing the general public with an excellent tool to research their tax reporting responsibilities."

###

To inquire about the availability of this document in an alternate format for the visually impaired, please call (360) 753-3217. Teletype (TTY) users please call 1-800-451-7985.